

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections  
5 21-5b, 21-5c, 21-5e, and 21-7.5 and by adding Section 21-5f as  
6 follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

8 Sec. 21-5b. Alternative certification. The State Board of  
9 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
10 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an  
11 alternative certification program under which persons who meet  
12 the requirements of and successfully complete the program  
13 established by this Section shall be issued an alternative  
14 teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. The program  
15 shall be limited to not more than 260 new participants during  
16 each year that the program is in effect. The State Board of  
17 Education, in cooperation with a partnership formed with a  
18 university that offers 4-year baccalaureate and masters degree  
19 programs and that is a recognized institution as defined in  
20 Section 21-21 and one or more not-for-profit organizations in  
21 the State which support excellence in teaching, shall within 30  
22 days after submission by the partnership approve a course of  
23 study developed by the partnership that persons in the program

1 must successfully complete in order to satisfy one criterion  
2 for issuance of an alternative certificate under this Section.  
3 The Alternative Teacher Certification program course of study  
4 must include the current content and skills contained in the  
5 university's current courses for State certification which  
6 have been approved by the State Board of Education, in  
7 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, as the  
8 requirement for State teacher certification.

9 The alternative certification program established under  
10 this Section shall be known as the Alternative Teacher  
11 Certification program. The Alternative Teacher Certification  
12 Program shall be offered by the submitting partnership and may  
13 be offered in conjunction with one or more not-for-profit  
14 organizations in the State which support excellence in  
15 teaching. The program shall be comprised of the following 3  
16 phases: (a) the first phase is the course of study offered on  
17 an intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,  
18 and practice teaching; (b) the second phase is the person's  
19 assignment to a full-time teaching position for one school  
20 year; and (c) the third phase is a comprehensive assessment of  
21 the person's teaching performance by school officials and the  
22 partnership participants and a recommendation by the partner  
23 institution of higher education to the State Board of Education  
24 that the person be issued a standard alternative teaching  
25 certificate. Successful completion of the Alternative Teacher  
26 Certification program shall be deemed to satisfy any other

1 practice or student teaching and subject matter requirements  
2 established by law.

3 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
4 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
5 shall be issued under this Section 21-5b to persons who at the  
6 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
7 certificate under this Section:

8 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
9 university with a bachelor's degree;

10 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of the  
11 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in  
12 this Section;

13 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject  
14 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a; and

15 (4) have been employed for a period of at least 5 years  
16 in an area requiring application of the individual's  
17 education; however, this requirement does not apply with  
18 respect to a provisional alternative teaching certificate  
19 for teaching in schools situated in a school district that  
20 is located in a city having a population in excess of  
21 500,000 inhabitants.

22 A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate  
23 under this Section shall be treated as a regularly certified  
24 teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and other terms  
25 and conditions of employment afforded teachers in the school  
26 who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an

1 exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

2       Until February 15, 2000, a standard alternative teaching  
3 certificate, valid for 4 years for teaching in the schools and  
4 renewable as provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under  
5 this Section 21-5b to persons who first complete the  
6 requirements for the provisional alternative teaching  
7 certificate and who at the time of applying for a standard  
8 alternative teaching certificate under this Section have  
9 successfully completed the second and third phases of the  
10 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in this  
11 Section. Alternatively, beginning February 15, 2000, at the end  
12 of the 4-year validity period, persons who were issued a  
13 standard alternative teaching certificate shall be eligible,  
14 on the same basis as holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate  
15 issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this Code, to  
16 apply for a Standard Teaching Certificate, provided they meet  
17 the requirements of subsection (c) of Section 21-2 of this Code  
18 and further provided that a person who does not apply for and  
19 receive a Standard Teaching Certificate shall be able to teach  
20 only in schools situated in a school district that is located  
21 in a city having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

22       Beginning February 15, 2000, persons who have completed the  
23 requirements for a standard alternative teaching certificate  
24 under this Section shall be issued an Initial Alternative  
25 Teaching Certificate valid for 4 years of teaching and not  
26 renewable. At the end of the 4-year validity period, these

1 persons shall be eligible, on the same basis as holders of an  
2 Initial Teaching Certificate issued under subsection (b) of  
3 Section 21-2 of this Code, to apply for a Standard Teaching  
4 Certificate, provided they meet the requirements of subsection  
5 (c) of Section 21-2.

6 This alternative certification program shall be  
7 implemented so that the first provisional alternative teaching  
8 certificates issued under this Section are effective upon the  
9 commencement of the 1997-1998 academic year and the first  
10 standard alternative teaching certificates issued under this  
11 Section are effective upon the commencement of the 1998-1999  
12 academic year.

13 The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the  
14 partnership establishing the Alternative Teacher Certification  
15 program, shall adopt rules and regulations that are consistent  
16 with this Section and that the State Board of Education deems  
17 necessary to establish and implement the program.

18 On July 1, 2007, candidates completing the one-year  
19 teaching assignment under a provisional alternative teaching  
20 certificate shall receive an Initial Teaching Certificate  
21 valid for 4 years of teaching, as provided under Section 21-2  
22 of this Code.

23 No new candidates may be admitted under this Section on or  
24 after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 95th  
25 General Assembly. Beginning on July 1, 2007, all new candidates  
26 for alternative certification shall complete the program

1 requirements under Section 21-5f of this Code.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-609, eff. 1-1-00.)

3 (105 ILCS 5/21-5c)

4 Sec. 21-5c. Alternative route to teacher certification.

5 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
6 Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement an  
7 alternative route to teacher certification program under which  
8 persons who meet the requirements of and successfully complete  
9 the program established by this Section shall be issued an  
10 initial teaching certificate for teaching in schools in this  
11 State. The State Board of Education shall approve a course of  
12 study that persons in the program must successfully complete in  
13 order to satisfy one criterion for issuance of a certificate  
14 under this Section. The Alternative Route to Teacher  
15 Certification program course of study must include the current  
16 content and skills contained in a university's current courses  
17 for State certification which have been approved by the State  
18 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
19 Certification Board, as the requirement for State teacher  
20 certification.

21 The program established under this Section shall be known  
22 as the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program. The  
23 program may be offered in conjunction with one or more  
24 not-for-profit organizations in the State. The program shall be  
25 comprised of the following 3 phases: (a) a course of study

1 offered on an intensive basis in education theory,  
2 instructional methods, and practice teaching; (b) the person's  
3 assignment to a full-time teaching position for one school  
4 year, including the designation of a mentor teacher to advise  
5 and assist the person with that teaching assignment; and (c) a  
6 comprehensive assessment of the person's teaching performance  
7 by school officials and program participants and a  
8 recommendation by the institution of higher education to the  
9 State Board of Education that the person be issued an initial  
10 teaching certificate. Successful completion of the Alternative  
11 Route to Teacher Certification program shall be deemed to  
12 satisfy any other practice or student teaching and subject  
13 matter requirements established by law.

14 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
15 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
16 shall be issued under this Section 21-5c to persons who at the  
17 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
18 certificate under this Section:

19 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
20 university with a bachelor's degree;

21 (2) have been employed for a period of at least 5 years  
22 in an area requiring application of the individual's  
23 education;

24 (3) have successfully completed the first phase of the  
25 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in  
26 this Section; and

1           (4) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject  
2           matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a.

3           An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in the  
4           common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-3 or 21-5 to  
5           persons who first complete the requirements for the provisional  
6           alternative teaching certificate and who at the time of  
7           applying for an initial teaching certificate have successfully  
8           completed the second and third phases of the Alternative Route  
9           to Teacher Certification program as provided in this Section.

10          A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate  
11          or an initial teaching certificate earned under this Section  
12          shall be treated as a regularly certified teacher for purposes  
13          of compensation, benefits, and other terms and conditions of  
14          employment afforded teachers in the school who are members of a  
15          bargaining unit represented by an exclusive bargaining  
16          representative, if any.

17          The State Board of Education may adopt rules and  
18          regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the  
19          State Board deems necessary to establish and implement the  
20          program.

21          No new candidates may be admitted under this Section on or  
22          after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 95th  
23          General Assembly. Beginning on July 1, 2007, all new candidates  
24          for alternative certification shall complete the program  
25          requirements under Section 21-5f of this Code.

26          (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)

1 (105 ILCS 5/21-5e)

2 Sec. 21-5e. Alternative Route to Administrative  
3 Certification for National Board Certified Teachers.

4 (a) It shall be the policy of the State of Illinois to  
5 improve the recruitment and preparation of instructional  
6 leaders.

7 (b) On or before July 1, 2007, the State Board of  
8 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
9 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an  
10 alternative route to administrative certification ~~for teacher~~  
11 ~~leaders~~, to be known as the Alternative Route to an  
12 Administrative Certificate for National Board Certified  
13 Teachers. ~~"Teacher leader" means a certified teacher who has~~  
14 ~~already received National Board certification through the~~  
15 ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who has~~  
16 ~~a teacher leader endorsement under Section 21-7.5 of this Code.~~

17 Persons who meet the requirements of and successfully complete  
18 the program established by this Section shall be issued a  
19 standard administrative certificate for serving in schools in  
20 this State. The State Board shall approve a course of study  
21 that persons must successfully complete in order to satisfy one  
22 criterion for issuance of the administrative certificate under  
23 this Section. The Alternative Route to an Administrative  
24 Certificate for National Board Certified Teachers must include  
25 the current content and skills contained in a college's or

1 university's courses and the Illinois Professional School  
2 Leader Standards for State certification, with the exception of  
3 courses that contain the competency areas and the Illinois  
4 Professional School Leader Standards that a candidate has  
5 already met through National Board certification or through a  
6 teacher leadership master's degree program.

7 (c) The Alternative Route to an Administrative Certificate  
8 for National Board Certified Teachers shall be comprised of the  
9 following 5 components ~~4 phases~~:

10 (1) two years of teaching experience;

11 (2) ~~(1)~~ National Board certification ~~and an~~  
12 ~~endorsement in teacher leadership in accordance with~~  
13 ~~Section 21-7.5 of this Code;~~

14 (3) ~~(2)~~ a master's degree in an education-related field  
15 ~~a teacher leader program;~~

16 (4) A minimum of ~~(3)~~ 15 hours of coursework in which  
17 the candidate must show evidence of meeting competencies  
18 for foundations of educational administration,  
19 organizational management and development, finance,  
20 supervision and evaluation, policy and legal issues,  
21 supervision of special education programs, and leadership,  
22 as stated in the Illinois Professional School Leader  
23 Standards for principals; and

24 (5) passage of applicable certification tests.

25 ~~(4) a passing score on the Illinois Administrator~~  
26 ~~Assessment.~~

1 (d) Successful completion of the Alternative Route to an  
2 Administrative Certificate for National Board Certified  
3 Teachers shall be deemed to satisfy all requirements to receive  
4 an administrative certificate established by law. The State  
5 Board shall adopt rules that are consistent with this Section  
6 and that the State Board deems necessary for the establishment  
7 and implementation of the program.

8 (Source: P.A. 94-1039, eff. 7-20-06.)

9 (105 ILCS 5/21-5f new)

10 Sec. 21-5f. Alternative route to teacher certification.

11 (a) On July 1, 2007, the State Board of Education, in  
12 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, shall  
13 discontinue the programs under Sections 21-5b and 21-5c of this  
14 Code and shall establish and implement an Alternative Route to  
15 Teacher Certification pursuant to this Section. Persons who  
16 meet the requirements of and successfully complete the program  
17 established by this Section shall be issued an initial teaching  
18 certificate.

19 (b) The program may be offered by a recognized institution  
20 that offers 4-year baccalaureate and master's degree programs,  
21 as defined in Section 21-21 of this Code. A partnership may be  
22 formed with one or more school districts and one or more  
23 not-for-profit organizations in this State that support  
24 excellence in teaching. The program course of study must  
25 include the content and skills contained in the recognized

1 institution's current program for State certification that has  
2 been approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
3 with the State Teacher Certification Board.

4 (c) The program must be comprised of the following 3  
5 phases:

6 (1) the first phase is the course of study offered on  
7 an intensive basis in educational theory, instructional  
8 methods, and practice teaching;

9 (2) the second phase is the person's assignment to a  
10 full-time teaching position for one school year, including  
11 the designation of a trained mentor teacher to advise and  
12 assist the person with that teaching assignment; and

13 (3) the third phase is a comprehensive assessment of  
14 the person's teaching performance by school officials and  
15 program participants, including passage of the assessment  
16 of professional teaching test, and a recommendation by the  
17 institution of higher education to the State Board of  
18 Education that the person be issued an initial teaching  
19 certificate.

20 Successful completion of the Alternative Route to Teacher  
21 Certification program shall be deemed to satisfy any other  
22 practice or student teaching and subject matter requirements  
23 established by law.

24 (d) An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in  
25 the common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-2 of this  
26 Code to persons who first complete the requirements for the

1 provisional alternative teaching certificate and who at the  
2 time of applying for an initial teaching certificate have  
3 successfully completed the second and third phases of the  
4 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program, as  
5 provided in subsection (c) of this Section.

6 (e) A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid  
7 for one year of teaching in the common schools and not  
8 renewable, shall be issued under this Section to persons who  
9 have done the following:

10 (1) graduated from an accredited college or university  
11 with a bachelor's degree;

12 (2) successfully completed the first phase of the  
13 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program, as  
14 provided in subsection (c) of this Section; and

15 (3) passed the tests of basic skills and subject matter  
16 knowledge required by Section 21-1a of this Code.

17 A person possessing a provisional alternative teaching  
18 certificate under this Section shall be treated as a regularly  
19 certified teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and  
20 other terms and conditions of employment afforded teachers in  
21 the school who are members of a bargaining unit represented by  
22 an exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

23 (f) The institution of higher education shall submit an  
24 annual report to the State Board of Education on the status of  
25 the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program,  
26 including data on program candidates and program completers for

1 5 years following completion of the program and recommendation  
2 for the initial teaching certificate.

3 (g) Each person who was issued a standard alternative  
4 teaching certificate under Section 21-5b of this Code may  
5 apply, on the same basis as holders of an initial teaching  
6 certificate issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this  
7 Code, for a standard teaching certificate. An individual who  
8 continues to hold a standard alternative teaching certificate  
9 is eligible to teach only in schools situated in a school  
10 district that is located in a city having a population in  
11 excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

12 (h) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that are  
13 consistent with this Section and that the State Board of  
14 Education deems necessary to establish and implement the  
15 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program.

16 (105 ILCS 5/21-7.5)

17 Sec. 21-7.5. Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the  
18 policy of the State of Illinois to improve the quality of  
19 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway for  
20 teachers interested in serving in leadership roles. Beginning  
21 on July 1, 2007, the State Board, in consultation with the  
22 State Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and  
23 implement a teacher leader endorsement, to be known as a  
24 teacher leader endorsement. Persons who meet the requirements  
25 of and successfully complete the requirements of the

1 endorsement established under this Section shall be issued a  
2 teacher leader endorsement for serving in schools in this  
3 State. The endorsement shall be a career path endorsement but  
4 not a restrictive endorsement available to: (i) teachers who  
5 are certified through the National Board for Professional  
6 Teaching Standards and complete a specially designed strand of  
7 teacher leadership courses; (ii) teachers who have completed a  
8 master's degree program in teacher leadership; and (iii) proven  
9 teacher leaders with a master's degree who complete a specially  
10 designed strand of teacher leadership courses. Colleges and  
11 universities shall have the authority to qualify the  
12 proficiency of proven teacher leaders under clause (iii) of  
13 this Section. A teacher who meets any of clauses (i) through  
14 (iii) of this Section shall be deemed to satisfy the  
15 requirements for the teacher leader endorsement. The teacher  
16 leadership courses shall articulate to a master's degree in  
17 educational administration at the same institution of higher  
18 learning. The State Board may adopt rules that are consistent  
19 with this Section and that the State Board deems necessary to  
20 establish and implement this teacher leadership endorsement  
21 program.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-1039, eff. 7-20-06.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
24 2007.